



The Bishops' Blue Coat  
Church of England High School

# HALF TERM UPDATE

June 2021

## Excitement and Surprises

The excitement of summer sunshine and returning to specialist spaces for lessons has been wonderful to see this week. Safety measures continue and we are being cautious and careful as we navigate our way through this phase of the pandemic and all it throws at young people. However Bishops' is also planning for an exciting future with our extension work underway. The excavations are overseen by an archaeological expert and as is common in Chester, there have been a number of small items found. Traces of medieval pottery and a olive oil bottle fragment from Roman times connect our site to the past as well as an exciting future. There may be surprises and excitement this term but we can take comfort and encouragement from the fact that God knows and goes before us.

*Every morning we enter a new day. Who knows what the day will bring? God knows. He has already gone ahead of us into the new day. He knows the way, what will happen, all we'll need. In the morning we can put our day in his hands. And let him bring into our day whatever he has for us. And then, in the evening, trust him with all that happened. "...the Lord will personally go ahead of you. He will be with you." Deuteronomy 31:8*



Ian Wilson  
Headteacher

## Investing For Everybody

We wrote to you all back in March about our exciting plans for Bishops'. In September 2021 we will be welcoming our third cohort of 210 students and our improved facilities are on the way. Students walking around site will soon be familiar with the diggers preparing the foundations. The expansion to W block will give us additional classrooms, ICT facilities, new toilets and office space. There will also be solar panels on the roof and air source heat pumps fitted.

The works will also see an additional sheltered outdoor eating space with access to fresh hot food, sandwiches, drinks and snacks.



## Government Information

Over 49 million rapid COVID-19 tests have been conducted by students and staff in schools and colleges across England since Monday 5th January. Building regular twice-weekly testing into routines has been critical in reaching this milestone number of tests and is testament to the dedication of students and staff to keep the virus out of schools.

**Education Secretary Gavin Williamson said:**

"I am grateful and humbled by the actions that everyone working in education has taken to pull together and deliver this programme. Alongside the wider protective measures in place the we must all continue following, this asymptomatic testing helps break chains of transmission by taking people we are infectious but don't know it out of circulation."

At Bishops' we will be continuing our protective measures in line with our Risk Assessment which can be found [here](#) on our school website. Due to the reduced number of students onsite students have been able to enjoy working in their subject spaces whilst transitioning from lesson to lesson largely outside in the fresh air. Windows, doors and external entrances and exits continue to be used. As well as designated KS4 and KS3 entry into school past our hand sanitiser stations.

Students in Year 7 and 8 have staggered entry into the canteen at lunch time, Year 9 has its own designated outdoor catering provision, and Year 10 and Year 12 have staggered entry to the Bistro.

Students have been brilliant throughout the last year





## A word from the chair

**The final half term before the summer break is one of optimism.** On behalf of all the governors, I would like to wish the very best for the future to those students leaving Bishops' at the end of this school year. The resilience of the whole Bishops' community throughout these unprecedented times has been remarkable and we are particularly proud of our exam year groups, and the staff working with them, who have adapted admirably to the new arrangements.

I would like to highlight that we are recruiting to two vacancies on our Governing Board. Both are for governors who are Christians, and some knowledge of education and/or strategic leadership would be welcomed, although this is not essential as training will be provided. We would particularly welcome applications from women and other under-represented groups on the board. If you would like the opportunity to give something back to Bishops' and help to shape the school's future, please do consider applying. The deadline for applications is 30<sup>th</sup> June. To find out more, please see [www.bishopschester.co.uk/governance](http://www.bishopschester.co.uk/governance)

With best wishes,



David Walsh

Chair of Governors

## Enhanced Support Package

The Government this week announced that Cheshire West and Chester will need extra measures due to the increasing spread of the Delta variant across all areas of the borough.

From **Monday 21st June** all staff and students will be required to wear a face mask in enclosed spaces (corridors, classrooms, canteen queue) unless medically exempt. This requirement is an additional measure to support schools to manage the risk of school based transmission.



The reintroduction of face covering is part of our continued enhanced measures to keep our community safe. This includes:

- Hand sanitising
- Social distancing from other year group bubbles and staff.
- Twice weekly lateral flow tests

## Term Dates

2021/2022	LAST DAY IN SCHOOL	DATE OF RE-OPENING
End of Summer Term	Wed 21 July	Thur 2 Sept (Y7 & Y12 only) Fri 3 Sept (All Years)

## Key Dates

June	22nd	Personal Development Day 1
	24th	Personal Development Day 2
	25th	INSET Day
	28th	Year 6 Form Tutor day
July	5th	Year 9 Core Subject parents evening
	16th	Year 7 Humanutopia
	21st	Last day of school

# Personal Development Days 22nd and 24th June

In November 2019 Ofsted rated our personal development curriculum as 'outstanding'. It is a fundamental branch to achieving our vision.



Over the two days in June the following activities will be taking place for all students in school. It is an opportunity for students to take part and challenge themselves with different and unique topics. Particularly after a challenging year these topics will contribute towards each child's personal development and help them become the best version of themselves.

## Back to school

It's been brilliant seeing students back in their learning spaces since school returned June 7th. As we start to move back to normality it's important that students arrive at lessons in the correct uniform and are prepared to start their lessons.

### Equipment:

Pen(s) black/blue  
Purple pen for self-assessment  
Pencil(s)  
Rubber  
Ruler  
Scientific Calculator  
Protractor  
Compass  
Glue  
Scissors  
Highlighters  
Coloured pencils  
Reading book



Year Group	Curriculum Principle	What's happening
7	Hope and Aspiration	Students will continue working towards their Archbishop of York Award completing school and community based projects with their form tutors. Learning about how they can BE the change they want to see.
8	Wisdom Knowledge and Skills	Students will work in teams with a STEM enterprise company to develop leadership, organisation, resilience, initiative and communication skills. They will link their awareness of these skills to The Edge where they will have the opportunity to log into the database and begin their graduate Edge programme.
9	Dignity and Respect	Students will watch a virtual theatre production 'Bird and the Bees' from the Theatre Centre and have a following up Sex and Relationships session and discussion. On their second day they will have a focus on mental health from Youthed, a virtual performance from an upcoming artist and a talk on mental health and how they can support the mental health of others.
10	Hope and Aspiration	Students will work in groups to pitch their business ideas to 6 external employers. They will develop leadership, organisation, resilience, initiative and communication skills through presenting their business ideas live to their employers.
12	Hope and Aspiration	Students will work with the Sixth form team and employers on a careers carousel.

## Hello Mr Metcalfe!

I am the new

**Youth Worker at The Bishops' Blue Coat.** As a youth worker I am in a privileged position to work with students, and staff. Originally from Bournemouth, I moved to Chester for my university studies leaving with a Certificate of Higher Education in Christian Youth Work, a BA (Hons) in Theology and a Post Graduate diploma in Theology all from the University of Chester.

I was brought up as Christian, though I left the church in my early teens, only to return near the end of my High school experience. For me a free Sunday was more important at that time, a story that might be familiar to some. However, upon returning I became heavily involved in playing worship, assisting with Children's groups and later taking youth to summer events as part of a team.

I will be working closely with the Religious Education department and our Chaplain Rev North as well, to further the progress that they, and all staff, have made in promoting the values of Bishops'. Also as part of the Bishops' family I aim to help facilitate the re-starting of extracurricular clubs in September, in what will hopefully be a post covid world!



**John Metcalfe**

Youth Leader and Administrator

## Welcome Back

to Mrs Caroe, Head of ICT and Mrs Lawson, Maths, from their maternity leave. We're also looking forward to welcoming Mrs Sherwin, Maths, later in July.

## Attendance

If you are aware that your child will be need to leave school for an appointment please contact the attendance team at [attendance@bishopschester.co.uk](mailto:attendance@bishopschester.co.uk) or if your child is unable to attend school due to illness please ensure your contact the school before 9.30am either by the email address above or on our dedicated absence telephone line **01244 313806 option 1**. To find out more about our attendance procedures are Bishops' please visit our dedicated page on our school website. <https://bishopschester.co.uk/years-7>

## Thank a Teacher Day

Every

**year on the 23rd June teachers and support staff** across the country are celebrated for their hard work and dedication. Anyone can send a card to any member of staff working in UK schools . This years limited edition e-card is designed by Gruffalo illustrator, Axel Scheffer. If you would like to use the card for any child, any age click the link here: [Thank You](#)



## Join our growing team

Our school improvement works and continued investment means we are looking for new faces to join Bishops'. To find out more about what it is like to work at Bishops' visit our [vacancy page](#).

We are currently looking to for a **Student Support Supervisor** to join our team. To find out about the role and submit an application visit our vacancy page.





# Have your say about Church

If you're between 10 and 18 years old and have some ideas about how Church could be better, then we'd really like you to be part of Youth Speak.

Youth Speak is where young people who are committed in their love for God, passionate about growing the church and creative in their thinking can make their opinions heard.

The first gathering of Youth Speak will be on Saturday 10th July at Foxhill in Frodsham. Find out more and apply to be part of Youth Speak: [www.youthspeak.co.uk](http://www.youthspeak.co.uk)



THE CHURCH  
OF ENGLAND  
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YOUTH  
speak  
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Internet safety is something that all children and adults should be aware of. Susie Hargreaves from the Internet Watch Foundation has some key tips when talking about the dangers of the internet with your children and how to keep them safe.

Talk

Talk to your child about online sexual abuse, start the conversation and listen to their views and concerns. Pick your moment carefully. Talking about sex can feel awkward. However, talking about it could make the difference between your child being safe or not. Be honest in an age-appropriate way, by giving as much or little detail about why this conversation is so essential.

Agree

Agree ground rules on the way you use technology as a family. You can't have control over everything your child does or how they behave on the internet, but setting expectations can help them go online positively and safely.

Learn

Learn about the platforms and apps your child loves to use. For this generation there is no longer a clear line between their online and offline lives, so it is important to take an interest in your child's online activity, even if the apps they are using may seem pointless or juvenile. Keeping communication open is key. Break down barriers by showing your child which apps of platforms you like to use, this will help them feel more relaxed about sharing their life on social media with you.

Know

Know how to use tools, apps and most importantly, their settings; this will help you to keep your child safe online. You may already have set controls on your child's internet use but it can be difficult to keep up with new platform innovations, so it is always worth spending time looking at which other or new controls are available. Discuss and agree on the privacy setting for the platforms and apps reminding them that your aim is to keep them safe, not to control their social life!

As the sun is starting to shine please can we remind families and students the importance of wearing sun cream and bringing in a water bottle to stay hydrated throughout the day. There are dedicated water refilling stations throughout the school where students can refill their water.



Previous Editions

All copies of our Headteacher's newsletters are published on our school website. Each half term we share not only what is going on but information we think you may find useful to support your child with their learning and development at home. All editions can be found here: <https://bishopschester.co.uk/newsletter/letters-home/>





# Roving Vaccination Clinics Humanutopia

**Aged 40 or over and haven't yet had your first vaccination against COVID-19 or do you know someone who falls into this group (family member, friend, neighbour, etc.)?** There will be walk-in vaccination clinics in your area on the following days next week:

**Wednesday 16th June** – Stanlaw Children's Centre, Alnwick Drive, Ellesmere Port, CH65 9HE

**Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> June** – Hoole Community Centre, Westminster Road, Hoole, CH2 3AP

**Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June** – Northwich Memorial Court, Chesterway, Northwich, CW9 5QJ

All clinics will run from 10.00 to 16.00 (or for as long as vaccine supplies last). You don't need to book an appointment in advance – just turn up on the day.

**You will need to provide the following details:**

NHS Number (if you have it)

Date of birth

Address

Email and/or phone number

**You'll be given an appointment for your second dose on the day.**

**Can't make it, or you're aged between 25 and 39?**

You can book an appointment through the National Booking Service either online ([www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination](https://www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination)) or by phoning 119.

## Household Lateral Flow Tests

Anyone in England is eligible to collect a lateral flow test. Tests can be collected from dedicated distribution sites. To find one near you click here: <https://www.gov.uk/find-covid-19-lateral-flow-test-site> or you can order tests to your home: <https://www.gov.uk/order-coronavirus-rapid-lateral-flow-tests>

Students in Year 7 to 10 are each receiving a workshop day with the company Humanutopia. The sessions titles 'Who Am I' give students the opportunity to reflect on how they became the person they are today.



The sessions already completed with Year 10, 9 and 8 have been powerful. Students have since been inspired to take up the step 'Heroes Journey' which will train these students be ambassadors for our new Year 7 students in September.



It was a good and safe opportunity to share personal stories/ feelings that have perhaps been bottled up for a long time and also it was a time when everyone in the year was equal; the inevitable hierarchy was momentarily disassembled. The whole day completely surpassed all of our expectations.

The day was great; a really good opportunity to let myself process things that had hurt me in the past and to recognise how others have been hurt by myself and others. Much better than I thought it was going to be!

I found the humanutopia day really helpful in understanding peers in my year



# Best wishes Year 11 see you in August!

11B



11C



11D



11S



11G



11H



## Buzz of Learning Week

The Buzz of Learning Week will take place from 12<sup>th</sup> – 16<sup>th</sup> July where all subjects will be focusing on exploring British Values, specifically Dignity and Respect – two of our Curriculum Principles.

Lessons throughout the week will provide potential for cross curricular learning and opportunities to concentrate on skills that were not able to take place earlier in the term due to the restrictions of Remote Learning or displacement of specialist teaching areas. We look forward to seeing our School Community explore, grow and develop as our students approach their subjects under a different focus, considering how Dignity and Respect are needed in all communities; locally, nationally and internationally.



**Mr Clarkson**

Assistant Headteacher

## Sporting Success!

Gemma Rose, Year 10 has been selected for Cheshire's U15s girls cricket team. Well done Gemma!

"I have been playing for 9 years and when I was younger I played for Alvanley Cricket Club U11 and U13 mixed but I was the only girl, and then when I was 14 I moved to Chester Boughton Hall Cricket Club and played for the women's 1st team. I then went on a Cheshire trial where they assessed my abilities and I was selected to play for them and represent Cheshire U15. Being selected for Cheshire means a lot to me and my family!"



# Year 7 Captain Tom 100 Challenge

Year 7 students have recently been living out our school vision to make a positive difference in the world through wise and responsible action by participating in 'The Captain Tom 100 Challenge'. The aim of this challenge is to raise money for the charity **Save the Children** to help it respond to the Covid-19 crisis that is currently devastating India. £146 will fund a life-saving oxygen cylinder to help people suffering from the disease and our aim is to raise £1000 so that we can fund 7 of these.



As the name suggests, the Captain Tom 100 Challenge involves our students challenging themselves to complete a given activity 100 times. Students and Year 7 Tutors so far have completed challenges such as:

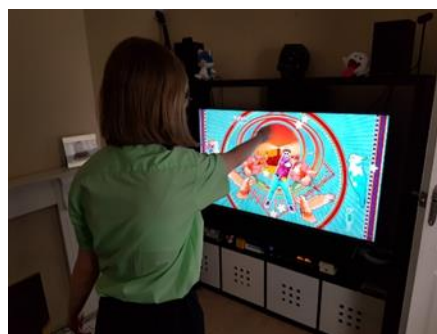
- Completing 100 'Just Dances'
- Reading 100 Chapters from the Bible
- Performing 100 songs on the piano
- Completing the cross-bar challenge 100 times
- Baking and selling 100 cakes
- Running 100 kilometres



100 Cross bar challenge



100 Cakes!



100 Just Dances

During our Year 7 Personal Development Days next week, all students will take part in activities aimed at deepening character, giving hope to others and making a positive difference in God's

world as advocates of change. The day will give every student the opportunity to complete a 100 challenge during the school day. If you wish to support this event by making a donation to *Save the Children*, you can do so on our Year 7 'Just Giving Page' at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/bishops-7g-100-challenge>.








## Year 10 in September

Parents and Carers of students currently in Year 9 please remember to purchase our KS4 gold tie before the start of the next term. Tie's can brought in school with correct money for £8.50 or online at [monkhouse.com](http://monkhouse.com). Our KS4 ties commemorate the 300 year old history of the Blue Coat School whilst also signifying the start of our students GCSE journey and making their own history!





## PE Lunchtime Clubs Timetable

Day	Activity	Time	Area	Staff
Monday	Year 7 Indoor Football 	12:40pm - 1:10pm	Sports hall	Mr Lucas
	Year 8 Rounders 	12:30pm - 1:00pm	Field (Past red line)	Miss O'Brien / Miss Foster
Tuesday	Year 8 Indoor Football 	12:30pm - 1:00pm	Sports hall	Mr Mitchell
	Year 7 Rounders 	12:40pm - 1:10pm	Field (Past red line)	Miss O'Brien / Miss Foster
Wednesday	Year 9 Indoor Football 	12:40pm - 1:10pm	Sports hall	Mr Lucas
Thursday	Year 10 Indoor Football 	12:40pm - 1:10pm	Sports hall	Mr Mitchell
Friday	Years 7-10 Badminton 	12:40pm - 1:10pm	Sports hall	Miss O'Brien / Miss Foster

### On top form!

Our top BEST point earners this term so far!

Year 7 : 7S = 5446

Year 8: 8H = 2538

Year 9: 9G = 2080

Year 10: 10B = 1517

There is still plenty of time for our other form groups to catch-up before the end of the year!



### Don't forget!

Applications for our school governor vacancies close **June 30th**. Being a governor is hugely rewarding. You can make a real difference to the school and the lives of our students, gain valuable skills and board level experience as well as having the opportunity to shape the priorities and direction of Bishops' into the future.

Anyone over the age of 18 can be governor, so long as you do not have certain financial disqualifications or criminal convictions. You do not need to be a parent of a student for most categories of governor.

Governors do not need to be experts in education, and a wide range of professional skills and 'soft skills', such as working as part of a team, are valuable for the governing body.

To find out more and apply go to our website: <https://bishopschester.co.uk/about-our-school/governance/>



# OPEN EVENING

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2021



**Known    Nurtured    Inspired**

For Year 6 pupils and their parents - Speak to our teachers - Subject Q&As



**@BishopsHigh**